The Minister of Agriculture and Social Welfare (Smt. K. R. Gouri) replying stated that the commission had suggested to have a census of the physically handicapped. The question of simplifying the procedure for giving medical certificates to the handicapped would also be considered. She said that many self employment schemes had been sanctioned during the current year which was being celebrated as the International Year of the handicapped. Thousand sales cabins, each costing Rs. 4500 would be allotted to handicapped in different areas of the State to set up their sales counter under the self-employment programme. The Banks would provide Rs. 3500 to each selected person to run the sales cabin. The co-operative of the handicapped would be provided with all assistance as were being extended to women co-operatives. Steps to provide artificial limbs were also under way. One more Artificial Limb Centre would be started in Cannanore. The assistance of the National Limb Centre would also be secured. In Government Service, 3% of the jobs had been reserved for the disabled, one per cent each for blind, deaf and physically handicapped. The private establishments had been requested to recruit at least two handicapped persons in their service. A major project for the rehabilitation of mentally retarded children was being considered. A Committee had made recommendations for providing education to their children and conducting sheltered workshops, the suggestions were under examination.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Papers enumerated under item II of the Order Paper for the day were placed by the respective Ministers.

Report of the Subject Committee II

The Minister of Revenue and Fisheries and Chairman, Subject Committee II (Shri P. S. Sreenivasan) presented the report of the Committee on the Kerala Plantation Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1981.

Report of the Committee on Public Accounts

Smt. K. R, Saraswathy Amma, Member, presented the thirty-second and thirty-third reports of the Committee.

Submission by Shri P. Seethi Haji regarding havoc caused by heavy rains in Malabar

Shri P. Seethi Haji said that there was widespread damage to crops, houses etc., in Malappuram, Calicut and Wynad districts and many people had been rendered homeless as a result of heavy rains in the last few days.

The Minister of Revenue and Fisheries stated that six persons lost their lives following heavy rains. There was also sea erosion, and damages due to gale. Relief measures were being taken.

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